

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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TAGS: PFOR, PE, CI

SUBJECT: UNHRC PRESS STATEMENT

REF: LIMA 5886

TEXT OF UNHRC PRESS STATEMENT TO BE RELEASED IN NY AND
GENEVA FOLLOWS FYI:

THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION
ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS ENTRUSTED, BY A DECISION OF THE COMMISSION
REACHED BY A CONSENSUS OF ALL ITS MEMBERS ON 27 FEBRUARY 1975,
WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF INQUIRING INTO THE PRESENT SITUATION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE. IT IS CONFRONTED WITH THE SUDDEN AND
UNEXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE THAT, CONTRARY
TO THE PREVIOUSLY STATED AND REPEATED ACCEPTANCES OF THIS DECISION
BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE, THE GROUP WILL NOT BE PERMITTED AT THIS
TIME TO UNDERTAKE A VISIT TO THAT COUNTRY FOR THE FULFILMENT OF THE
TASK ENTRUSTED TO IT.

THIS REVERSAL OF THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE WAS
COMMUNICATED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP THROUGH THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND DIRECTLY THROUGH A
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DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE ON THE

4TH OF JULY 1975, WHEN HE REACHED LIMA (ILLEGIBLE)

AT THAT TIME THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WERE ALSO TRAVELLING FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD TO LIMA, AS THIS CITY HAD BEEN AGREED UPON AS THEIR MEETING POINT, BEFORE ENTERING CHILE. ONLY A WEEK EARLIER, THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE HAD CONFIRMED ITS ACCEPTANCE OF THE VISIT OF THE GROUP TO CHILE AND ASSURED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF ITS DESIRE TO ATTEND TO THE REQUIRMENTS OF THE GROUP IN THE BEST POSSIBLE MANNER.

ON BEING INFORMED OF THE DECISION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS APPROVING BY CONSENSUS THE ABOVE MENTIONED RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE ON 15TH MAY REITERATED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS "THE ASSURANCES OF ITS FULLEST SUPPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES WHICH THE WORKING GROUP WILL CARRY OUT IN ITS TERRITORY IN ORDER TO DISCHARGE ITS TASK FULLY AND WITHOUT DELAY". AS AGREED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE, THE VISIT OF THE GROUP TO CHILE WAS TO BEGIN TODAY, 10TH JULY 1975.

THE WORKING GROUP EXAMINED CAREFULLY THE REASONS ADVANCED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE IN ITS COMMUNICATIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS, IN THE PUBLIC STATEMENT OF GENERAL PINOCHET ON 5 JULY 1975, AS WELL AS BY THE EMISSARIES WHICH THE PRESIDENT OF CHILE SENT ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE TO MEET WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP ON 8TH JULY. IN ITS CONSIDERED OPINION AND ON THE BASIS OF THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO IT, NONE OF THESE REASONS ARE OF SUCH A NATURE AS WOULD JUSTIFY THE UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL FROM AN AGREEMENT TO A COURSE OF ACTION CONSIDERED BY THE COMPETENT UNITED NATIONS ORGANS AS CONDUCIVE TO THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE, AND TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE HAD ALL ALONG BEEN A WILLING PARTY. THE CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED AS GROUNDS FOR CANCELLATION OF THE ACCEPTANCE OR FOR ITS INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT EXISTED AT THE TIME THE RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANS WERE ADOPTED WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE.

ON TWO OCCASIONS SINCE THE 4TH JULY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP REQUESTED THE PRESIDENT OF CHILE, GENERAL PINOCHET, TO RECONSIDER HIS DECISION, PROPOSING THAT THE ANSWER TO THESE REQUESTS BE HANDED TO HIM NOT LATER THAN ON THE EVENING OF 9TH JULY. NO SUCH ANSWER WAS RECEIVED BY THE CHAIRMAN UNTIL NOW.

THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP CONSISTS OF THE PRESENT CHAIRMAN AND PRECEDING CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE

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PRESIDENT OF THE TWENTY-EIGHT SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, A MEMBER OF THE SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE OF HIS COUNTRY AND A DISTINGUISHED WOMAN SOCIAL WORKER. IT IS

CONCERNED SOLELY, AND TO THE EXCLUSION OF ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, WITH ASSESSING THE SITUATION IN CHILE AS REGARDS RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, IN THE LIGHT OF THE OBLIGATIONS ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE IN INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS CONCLUDED

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS. ITS PURPOSE WAS TO ASCERTAIN TO WHAT EXTENT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE RESTORED IN THAT COUNTRY, WHICH WAS STATED TO BE THE OBJECTIVE OF ITS PRESENT GOVERNMENT. THE GROUP IS SOLELY MOVED BY ITS DEEP SYMPATHY FOR THE CHILEAN PEOPLE, AND ITS WISH TO DO ITS UTMOST WITHIN ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE, IN ORDER THAT RESPECT FOR THE DIGNITY AND WORTH OF THE HUMAN PERSON SHOULD PREVAIL IN CHILE. ITS COMMITMENT TO GO INTO CHILE

WITHOUT ANY PRECONCEIVED IDEAS OR PREJUDICES WAS SOLEMNLY AFFIRMED BY ITS CHAIRMAN AND IS FULLY ADHERED TO BY ALL ITS MEMBERS.

IT IS BELOW THE DIGNITY OF THE GROUP TO ANSWER THE IMPLICATION THAT THE GROUP MAY BE PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL PLOT AGAINST THE SECURITY OR SOVERIGNTY OF CHILE. THE FALLACY OF SUCH A CONTENTION IS OBVIOUS TO ALL THOSE WHO KNOW ITS COMPOSITION AND THE HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES ON WHICH IT WISHES TO BASE ITS WORK AND ITS CONCLUSIONS.

THE GROUP CONSIDERS THAT IT IS UNDER OBLIGATION TO PERFORM AS COMPLETELY AS POSSIBLE THE TASKS ENTRUSTED TO IT UNDER THE RESOLUTIONS

WHICH ESTABLISHED IT, AND TO REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH THE SECRETARY GENERAL, AND TO THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY INTER ALIA, ON THE BASIS OF ORAL AND WRITTEN EVIDENCE TO BE GATHERED FROM ALL RELEVANT SOURCES. IT WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED OR DETERRED IN CONTINUING TO PERFORM ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.

IT REGRETS DEEPLY THE PRESENT ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE IN TRYING TO PREVENT IT FROM FULFILLING ITS NOBLE TASK, AS FULLY AS THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANS HAD WISHED AND AS THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS HAD AGREED.

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